

Prevention

We, the members of the Salina Fire Department, dedicate our efforts to provide for the safety and welfare of the public through preservation of life, property, and the environment.

We have developed many fire prevention programs to help us meet this goal. One of these programs is the Juvenile Firesetter Program.

The Juvenile Firesetter Program has been established to help reduce the number of fires started by juveniles within our community. With the cooperation of parents, the program can be very effective.



Salina Fire Department
222 W. Elm
Salina, Kansas 67401
785-826-7340



About the Program

- The program is adaptable for a wide range of ages, pre-school through high school.
- The program involves both the juvenile and the caregiver or caregivers.
- It starts with an initial interview of the parent, usually by phone.
- A meeting or several meetings are scheduled to evaluate the cause of the fire setting behavior.
- A determination is made whether to provide fire safety education, refer the case to specially trained health professionals or both.

If you have any question about the Juvenile Firesetter Program or about any fire prevention programs, call:

Salina Fire Department
Prevention Division
(785)826-7340

Prevention



Juvenile Firesetter Program

Fire Facts

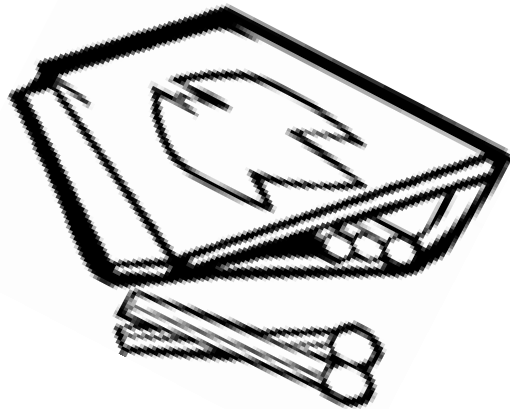
- 25-50% of all fires are intentionally set.
- Almost 75% of fires set are started by juveniles.
- Juvenile caused fires range from grass and dumpster fires, to vacant building and residential fires.
- Juvenile firesetters come from all social, racial and economic backgrounds.

The Consequences

- Millions of dollars in property damage every year.
- Increased insurance rates.
- Criminal prosecution of the juvenile or their caregivers.
- Thousands of injuries and deaths as a result of juvenile set fires. The victims themselves are often the juvenile fire setter or members of their family.
- Destruction and human suffering.

Why Juveniles Start Fires

- The principal reason most children play with fire is out of curiosity.
- For some children, setting fires deliberately is a response to situational or emotional problems.
- Fire setting behavior may be caused by major changes in family life., such as a death, move or divorce.
- Peer pressure from friends is another reason juveniles set fires.
- Children from abusive or dysfunctional households are at a higher risk for fire setting behavior.



Take Responsibility

Set a good example for children by following basic fire safety practices in your home.

- Talk openly about all aspects of fire safety with children, beginning at a young age.
- Teach older children to use fire responsibly, and to bring found matches or lighters to an adult.
- Keep matches and lighters up high out of children's sight and reach. Preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Store flammable liquids properly and away from children.
- Never leave young children alone with an open flame.
- Teach children that lighters and matches are tools and not toys.
- If you suspect your child is overly curious about fire or setting fires, get help immediately.